III. REMARKS

Claims 1 - 27 remain pending in the instant application.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10 and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) in view of Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 1 recites an image transfer apparatus for transferring an image on a sheet medium. The apparatus is claimed having a frame with a reader connected to the frame for reading the image on the sheet medium with the image moving relative to the reader in a process direction when the reader reads the image. A positioning system is claimed connected to the frame for controllably skewing the sheet medium so that the sheet medium is skewed at a predetermined skew angle relative to the process direction.

Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) discloses an image reading apparatus having a paper supply mechanism, a paper transport mechanism and an image reading mechanism. A paper skew prevention means is disclosed having paper skew detection means for detecting a paper skew condition where if a paper skew condition is detected, the paper skew prevention means positively corrects to **eliminate** the skew condition (please see column 62, lines 61-67).

Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326) discloses a digital image processing method and system adapted to remove diagonally disposed artifacts from a scanned skew corrected document. The system 300 has a image capture section 301 and a image de-skewing or correction

section 302 which corrects a captured image that is skewed (please see fig. 2A, column 4 lines 58-66).

No where in Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) alone or in combination with Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326) is there a disclosure or suggestion of a positioning system for controllably skewing the sheet medium so that the sheet medium is skewed at a predetermined skew angle relative to the process direction as claimed in claim 1. Instead, Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) discloses a paper skew prevention means where if a paper skew condition is detected, the paper skew prevention means positively corrects to take out and eliminate the skew condition which is different than controllably skewing the sheet medium so that the sheet medium is skewed at a predetermined skew angle relative to the process direction as claimed in claim 1. Instead, Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326) discloses an image de-skewing or correction section 302 which corrects a captured image that if found skewed at any arbitrary skew angle which is different than controllably skewing the sheet medium so that the sheet medium is skewed at a predetermined skew angle relative to the process direction as claimed in claim 1. Here, Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) eliminates a skew condition and Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326) digitally corrects an arbitrarily skewed image whereas claim 1 requires controllably skewing at a predetermined skew angle relative to the process direction. Moreover, there is no motivation to combine the Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) skew condition elimination mechanism and the Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326) digital arbitrarily skewed image correction. Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326) relies on some arbitrary skew to find and eliminate undesired artifacts generated in the scanned image, and does not need to eliminate, nor can it operate with the deskew mechanism of Takashimizu which eliminates arbitrary skew and

combining the two would render Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326) inoperable. The features of claim 1 are neither disclosed nor suggested by either Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) or Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326) either alone or in combination. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) in view of Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326).

Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10 are all dependent upon claim 1. For the reasons set forth above relating to claim 1, the features of claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10 are neither disclosed or suggested by Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) or Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326) either alone or in combination. Accordingly, claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) in view of Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326).

Claim 25 recites an image transfer apparatus for transferring an image on a sheet medium. The apparatus is claimed having a frame and a reader connected to the frame for reading the image on the sheet medium. A positioning system is claimed connected to the frame for controllably skewing the sheet medium so that the sheet medium is skewed at a predetermined skew angle. A detector is connected to the frame for detecting data, from the electronic data generated by the reader reading the image, that defines a feature in a final output image caused by dirt during reading of the image by the reader.

No where in Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) alone or in combination with Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326) is there a disclosure or suggestion of a positioning system for controllably

skewing the sheet medium so that the sheet medium is skewed at a predetermined skew angle as claimed in claim 25. Instead, Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) discloses a paper skew prevention means where if a paper skew condition is detected, the paper skew prevention means positively corrects to take out and eliminate the skew condition which is different than controllably skewing the sheet medium so that the sheet medium is skewed at a predetermined skew angle as claimed in claim 25. Instead, Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326) discloses an image de-skewing or correction section 302 which corrects a captured image that is skewed at any arbitrary skew angle which is different than controllably skewing the sheet medium so that the sheet medium is skewed at a predetermined skew angle as claimed in claim 25. Here, Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) eliminates a skew condition and Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326) digitally corrects an arbitrarily skewed image whereas claim 25 requires controllably skewing at a predetermined skew angle. The features of claim 25 are neither disclosed or suggested by either Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) or Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326) either alone or in combination. Accordingly, claim 25 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) in view of Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326).

Claims 26-27 are all dependent upon claim 25. For the reasons set forth above relating to claim 25, the features of claims 26-27 are neither disclosed or suggested by Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) or Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326) either alone or in combination. Accordingly, claims 26-27 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) in view of Lee (U.S. Patent 6,282,326).

Claims 5, 9 and 11-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) in view of Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935).

Claims 5 and 9 are all dependent upon claim 1. For the reasons set forth above relating to claim 1, the features of claims 5 and 9 are neither disclosed or suggested by Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) or Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935) either alone or in combination. Accordingly, claims 5 and 9 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) in view of Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935).

Claim 11 recites an image transfer apparatus dirt detection system for detecting dirt affecting image transfer quality. The system is claimed having a reader capable of reading the image disposed on a medium, the reader having a predetermined process direction for reading the image. A processor is claimed connected to the reader for receiving electronic data embodying the image read by the reader. A skew system is claimed connected to the reader for controllably skewing the image so that the image is skewed at a predetermined angle from an initial orientation to a skewed orientation, the reader reading the image when the image is in the skewed orientation.

Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) discloses an image reading apparatus having a paper supply mechanism, a paper transport mechanism and an image reading mechanism. A paper skew prevention means is disclosed having paper skew detection means for detecting a paper skew condition where if a paper skew condition is detected, the paper skew prevention means positively corrects to eliminate the skew condition.

Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935) discloses a system and method for implementing the blanking of an image of a skewed original document allowing and edge at an arbitrary angle to be masked and dirt from the top cover of the copier to be removed.

No where in Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) either alone or in combination with Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935) is there a disclosure or suggestion of an image transfer apparatus dirt detection system for detecting dirt affecting image transfer quality as claimed in claim 11. Instead, Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935) discloses a system that removes dirt from the top cover of the copier by blanking which is different than a dirt detection system for detecting dirt affecting image transfer quality as claimed in claim 11. No where in Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) either alone or in combination with Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935) is there a disclosure or suggestion of a skew system for controllably skewing the image so that the image is skewed at a predetermined angle from an initial orientation to a skewed orientation, the reader reading the image when the image is in the skewed orientation as claimed in claim 11. Instead, Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) discloses a paper skew prevention means where if a paper skew condition is detected, the paper skew prevention means positively corrects to eliminate the skew condition which is different than controllably skewing the image so that the image is skewed at a predetermined angle from an initial orientation to a skewed orientation as claimed in claim 11. Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) eliminates a skew condition whereas claim 11 requires controllably skewing at a predetermined angle from an initial orientation to a skewed orientation. Instead, Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935) discloses blanking of an image of a skewed original document allowing and edge at an arbitrary angle to be masked which is different than

controllably skewing the image so that the image is skewed at a predetermined angle from an initial orientation to a skewed orientation as claimed in claim 11. The features of claim 11 are neither disclosed or suggested by Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) or Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935) either alone or in combination. Accordingly, claim 11 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) in view of Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935).

Claims 12-19 are all dependent upon claim 11. For the reasons set forth above relating to claim 11, the features of claims 12-19 are neither disclosed or suggested by Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) or Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935) either alone or in combination. Accordingly, claims 12-19 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) in view of Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935).

Claim 20 recites an image transfer apparatus dirt detection system for detecting dirt affecting image transfer quality. The system is claimed having a reader capable of reading the image disposed on a medium, the reader having a predetermined process direction for reading the image. A processor is claimed connected to the reader for receiving electronic data embodying the image read by the reader. A positioning system is claimed connected to the reader for controllably skewing the image so that the image is skewed at a predetermined slant relative to the process direction so that a dirt generated feature included in the electronic data is identifiable by programming of the processor.

Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) discloses an image reading apparatus having a paper supply mechanism, a paper transport mechanism and an image reading mechanism. A paper skew prevention

means is disclosed having paper skew detection means for detecting a paper skew condition where if a paper skew condition is detected, the paper skew prevention means positively corrects to eliminate the skew condition.

Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935) discloses a system and method for implementing the blanking of an image of a skewed original document allowing and edge at an arbitrary angle to be masked and dirt from the top cover of the copier to be removed.

No where in Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) either alone or in combination with Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935)is there a disclosure or suggestion of an image transfer apparatus dirt detection system for detecting dirt affecting image transfer quality as claimed in claim 20. Instead, Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935) discloses a system that removes dirt from the top cover of the copier by blanking which is different than a dirt detection system for detecting dirt affecting image transfer quality as claimed in claim 20. No where in Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) either alone or in combination with Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935) is there a disclosure or suggestion of a positioning system for controllably skewing the image so that the image is skewed at a predetermined slant relative to the process direction so that a dirt generated feature included in the electronic data is identifiable by programming of the processor as claimed in claim 20. Instead, Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) discloses a paper skew prevention means where if a paper skew condition is detected, the paper skew prevention means positively corrects to eliminate the skew condition which is different than controllably skewing the image so that the image is skewed at a predetermined slant relative to the process direction so that a dirt generated feature included in the

electronic data is identifiable by programming of the processor as claimed in claim 20. Here, Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) eliminates a skew condition whereas claim 20 requires controllably skewing at a predetermined slant relative to the process direction so that a dirt generated feature included in the electronic data is identifiable by programming of the processor. Instead, Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935) discloses blanking of an image of a skewed original document allowing and edge at an arbitrary angle to be masked which is different than controllably skewing the image so that the image is skewed at a predetermined slant relative to the process direction so that a dirt generated feature included in the electronic data is identifiable by programming of the processor as claimed in claim 20. The features of claim 20 are neither disclosed or suggested by Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) or Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935) either alone or in combination. Accordingly, claim 20 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) in view of Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935).

Claims 21-24 are all dependent upon claim 20. For the reasons set forth above relating to claim 20, the features of claims 21-24 are neither disclosed or suggested by Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) or Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935) either alone or in combination. Accordingly, claims 21-24 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 5,956,161) in view of Cook (U.S. Patent 6,271,935).

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should

any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 24-0037.

Respectfully submitted,

Janik Marcovici
Reg. No. 42,841

1/16/08
Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted electronically, on the date indicated below, addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 1/16/08

Signature: Shauna Murphy
Shauna Murphy
Person Making Deposit